Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Sunday 22 Dec 2024 until 23:59 on Monday 23 Dec 2024

Forecast Issued on Sunday 22 Dec 2024 at 03:00

Confidence: High for very windy, cold and showery conditions on Sunday then a transition to a much milder southwesterly early next week.

Headline for Sunday 22 Dec 2024: Very windy and cold with wintry showers. Drier in afternoon.

Mountain weather hazards on Sunday 22 Dec 2024

Blizzards Low Likelihood	**Heavy persistent snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** Medium Likelihood
Gales High Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** High Likelihood	**Poor visibility** Medium Likelihood
Thunderstorms Low Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Heavy snow showers (night)	Heavy snow showers	Light snow showers	Light snow showers	Partly cloudy (night)	Partly cloudy (night)
Precipitation probability					
70%	70%	40%	30%	20%	20%

Forecast for Sunday 22 Dec 2024

Weather: Bright spells and showers, falling as snow to 300m in the morning with a small chance of hail and thunder. The showers will become more scattered in the afternoon, falling as snow above about 600m, then dry with clear spells in evening. Very strong and gusty winds with severe wind chill.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 30% morning improving to 70% in afternoon.

Low cloud and visibility: Frequent cloud above 400m morning, becoming patchy above 600m in the afternoon. Mainly good visibility between showers but poor in showers, down to a few hundred metres at times in snow.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Forecast for Sunday 22 Dec 2024

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	48/56 W	45/54 NW	48/59 NW	50/62 NW	47/58 NW	47/58 NW	44/55 NW
600	36/47 W	33/42 NW	36/49 NW	37/51 NW	33/46 NW	32/45 NW	30/42 NW
300	11/38 W	11/36 NW	16/43 NW	16/45 NW	13/40 NW	13/40 NW	12/39 NW
Valley	11/35 W	9/32 NW	14/39 NW	15/42 NW	12/36 NW	12/38 NW	12/36 NW

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-4/-15	-3/-14	-2/-12	-1/-11	-2/-12	-2/-12	-3/-13
600	-2/-11	-1/-10	0/-8	1/-7	1/-7	0/-8	-0/-8
300	0/-4	1/-4	2/-3	4/-1	3/-1	2/-2	2/-3
Valley	2/-2	3/-1	5/1	6/2	6/3	5/2	5/1
Freezing Level*	300m	400m	700m	700m	600m	400m	300m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Severe gales, storm force at times on ridges and summits with gusts of 70 to 80mph. Walking severely hampered, almost impossible at times. Bitterly cold on the tops.

Forecast for Monday 23 Dec 2024

Weather: Clear spells overnight then a dry and sunny start with lighter winds. Turning cloudy from midday with outbreaks of rain and drizzle arriving in the afternoon. Turning milder.

Maximum wind: Northwest 30 to 40mph gusts 55mph easing to 15 to 20mph, becoming Southwest in afternoon.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 90% in morning, reducing to 10% in afternoon.

Low cloud and visibility: Excellent visibility in morning then becoming poor in afternoon rain. Cloud and fog becoming extensive above 400m in afternoon, down to low slopes in south and west.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 1 to 3C rising to 8C.
At 800m: Minus 1C rising to 3C in afternoon.
Freezing level: 500m, rising above summits in afternoon.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Date: Saturday 21 December. Location: Catstye Cam summit at 13:20. Temperature: plus 1.8C. Maximum wind speed 77.4mph. Wind chill: minus 9.9C. Average wind speed: 34.2mph.
Full report: Blizzard conditions on the high fells today with rain, sleet, hail and a little snow being driven on near 80 mph gusts. Walking directly in this was near impossible with any kind of rampart needing to be sought as an island of safety. The middle of the day saw almost no snow on high ground. Any overnight snow will be straight onto rocky paths and ground. Snow was only starting to settle as dusk fell on Saturday evening.
Gale force winds are set to continue into Sunday so regardless of snow conditions, walking will again be very challenging with the need for plenty of personal clothing including a substantial waterproof shell, both top and bottoms. Spare hats and gloves would also be advisable to either replace wet ones or others that have blown away, a potential life saver.
It was encouraging to see adventurous walkers making positive life choices and avoiding 'the Edges' and precipitous drops. Turning back was a wise choice today. Horizontal paths were challenging enough. Readings today were taken from Catstye Cam, 60m lower than Helvellyn and in part sheltered.

Issued at: 03:00 on Sun 22 Dec 2024

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